



Young PALM Declaration 提言書

Miyakojima, Okinawa, Japan

May 25, 2012

Young PALM Declaration

“We are islanders ~ Spread the Pacific Ocean Bond”

At Young PALM we have learnt that working together is essential to achieve a mutual goal. As leaders of your nations, responsibility falls upon you to actively engage in a united effort to bring together the people of our region. Thus, strengthening diplomatic relations and removing cultural barriers. Our Pacific region is known for being a paradise in itself, hence Miyako Island has been deemed the perfect location for this year’s Young PALM meeting, as it is a great example of an eco-friendly island.

Our mission is to learn about environmental issues and to propose solutions that will be in the best interest of every nation represented here at PALM6.

In the past three days, we have immersed ourselves in the Okinawan culture, people and sights, as well as deepened our friendships with other participants. Our excursion to the Sodeyama Water Treatment Plant, and lectures from Dr. Sakurai and local high school students have opened our eyes to water related issues and solutions relevant to our lives.

The four major issues regarding water in our Pacific islands are:

Water Resource Management

There is a decreased quality and quantity of water due to pollution. We are alarmed that there are inadequate regulations in place to prevent water pollution, sustain water quality, and ensure water security.

International Cooperation

Pacific islands lack the finance or ability to secure their water access on their own.

Education for Sustainable Development

Lack of education leads to environmentally destructive human activities, such as the wasting of water.

Further Issues

Other problems exist due to increased human activity, contamination of the sea, and excessive CO₂.

I. Water resource conservation

We Young PALMers promise to:

- 1) Contribute to the improvement of water facilities.
- 2) Encourage people to apply suitable technology for each region.
- 3) Assist others in our communities in managing water.
- 4) Understand the importance of water, and use it carefully.

Our governments should:

- 1) Increase funding for the improvement of water facilities.
- 2) Provide more water storage systems.
- 3) Make laws and legislation for the preservation of water concerning water protection zones.
- 4) Monitor the safety, quality and quantity of water.
- 5) Create different methods to purify water.
- 6) Regulate the activities of factories to prevent pollution of our seas.

II. International cooperation

- 1) Our governments and the Asia-Pacific Water Forum should establish a union regarding water, that:
 - a) Monitors and advises its member countries.
 - b) Sets and accomplishes short and long term goals.
 - c) Is able to evaluate its performance.
- 2) Increase Official Development Assistance.
- 3) Declare that every country should reduce CO2 emissions, in turn preventing the flooding of small islands.
- 4) Cooperate with other countries in planning water emergency strategies, checking waste management, and sharing technological knowledge. Help countries that lack safe water by searching for the most suitable ways to allow for water sustainability.
- 5) Raise awareness on exploitation of natural resources by foreign countries, by spreading knowledge using mass media.
- 6) Hold frequent international events on environmental problems where younger generations can make suggestions to their government leaders on environmental issues.

III. Education for Sustainable Development

We Young PALMers promise to:

- 1) Study water related issues that affect the Pacific to solve these problems by strongly recommending eco-friendly lifestyles.
- 2) Utilize mass media to spread our opinions on environmental matters.

Our governments should:

- 1) Manage their resources by educating communities and the world as a whole about prioritizing environmental matters.

IV. Further Issues

We Young PALMers promise to:

- 1) Preserve our local environments by participating in volunteer services to keep our islands beautiful for future generations.
- 2) Participate in activities to promote awareness concerning water related issues, and share environmental problems and solutions with others.
- 3) Adopt eco-friendly habits by completing the “6R’s”: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, Repair and Respect.
- 4) Use alternative transport that does not give off carbon dioxide and other gases that affect our atmosphere.

Our governments should:

- 1) Take leadership in improving the economy, water security, and water resource management in order to earn trust from their people and be a good role model for the international community.

As participants of Young PALM 2012, we envision a world where every person has access to safe and clean drinking water, where Mother Nature thrives without negative impacts from humans.

As we stand here today proposing these solutions to the leaders of our nations, we also declare our commitment to minimize our impact on the environment, conserve our water resources, and respect each other's cultures.

One country cannot combat climate change alone; international cooperation is essential. After all, we all live on one planet.

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